

The cluster structure in light neutron-rich nuclei

Zaihong Yang (楊再宏)

RIKEN Nishina Center

2015.9.15

outline

Introduction

The cluster structure of ^{12}Be

Research plan at RIKEN

What is cluster?

Objects congregate into clusters on all physical scales.



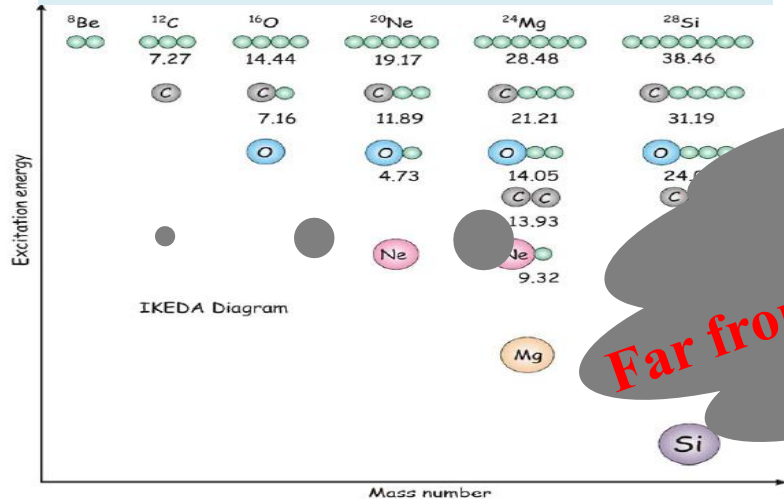
(Universe)



(Life)

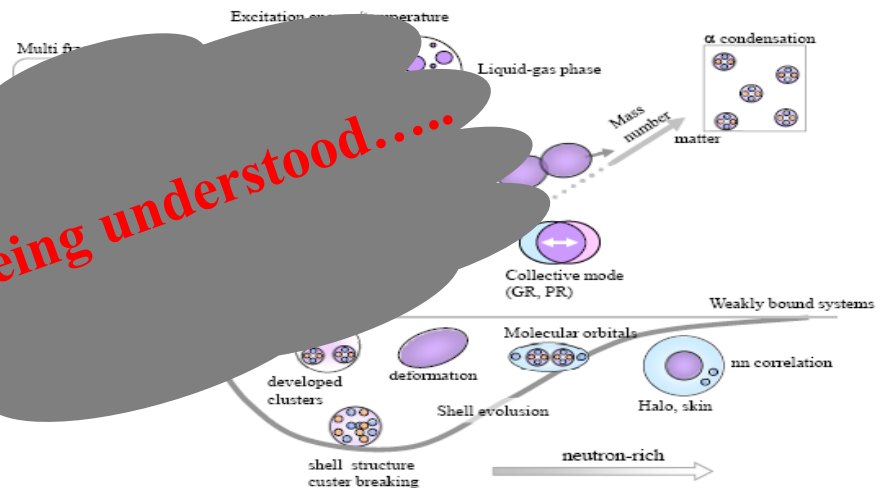
Nucleon Clustering in nuclei

stable even-even nuclei : Ikeda diagram



K. Ikeda, et al., PTPS, E464(1968)

Neutron-rich nuclei : Molecular structures, Dineutron



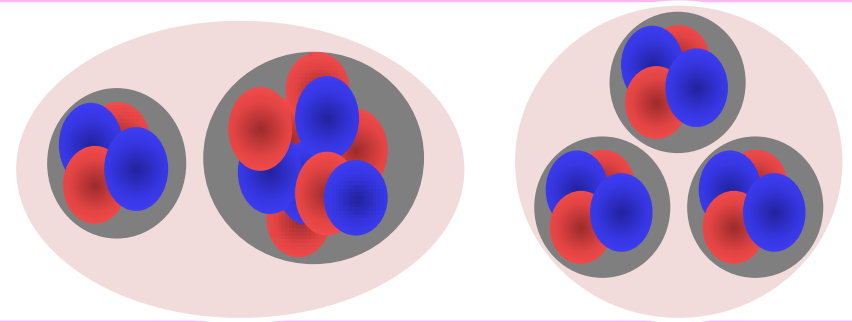
Y. Kanada-Enyo, et al., PTEP1, 01A202(2012)

α -Clusters in Nuclei

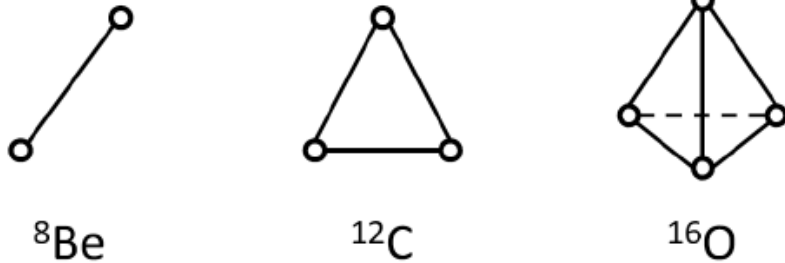
The Hoyle state of ^{12}C with the 3- α structure.

- 0^+_3 (12.05 MeV) in ^{16}O ($\alpha + ^{12}\text{C}$)
- 4^+ (10.15 MeV) in ^{10}Be ($\alpha + ^6\text{He}$)

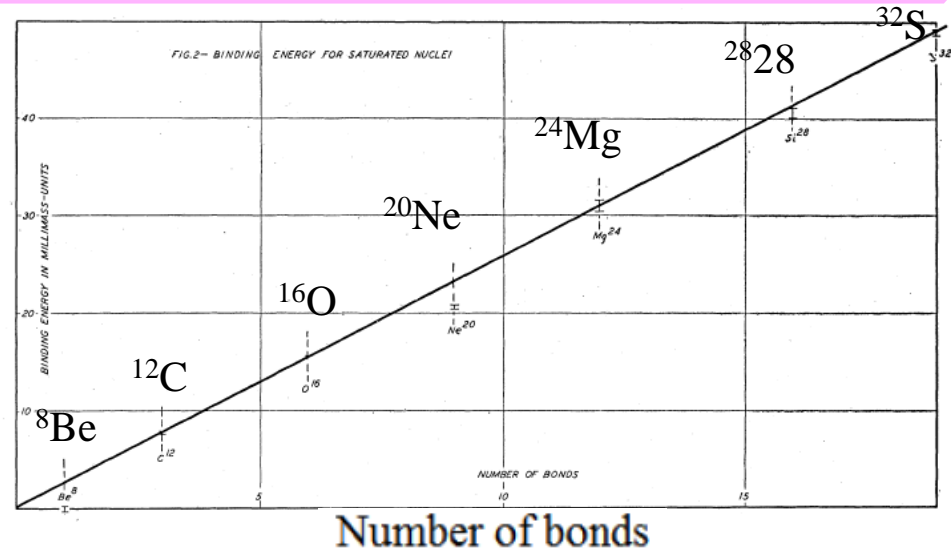
PRL96(06)042501



α -Cluster model of Hafstad and Teller for α -conjugate nuclei (~1930s).



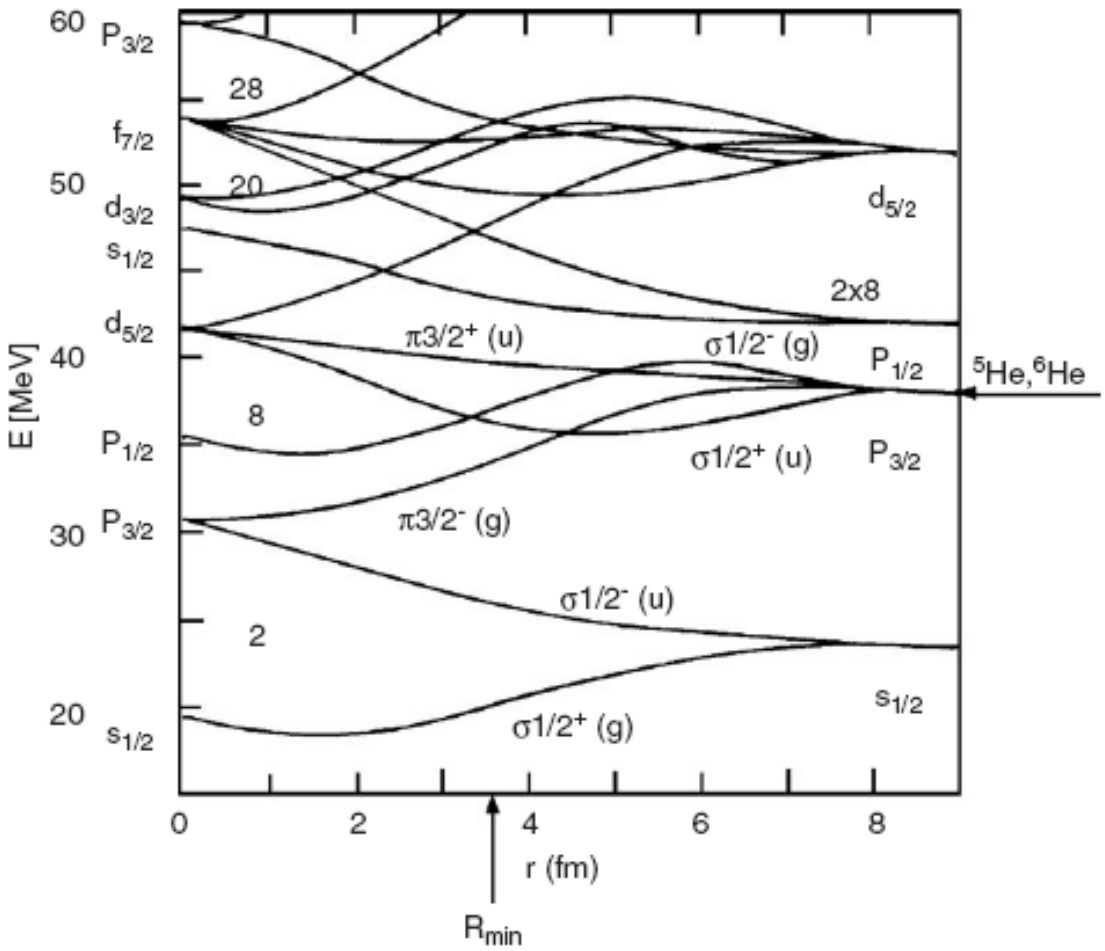
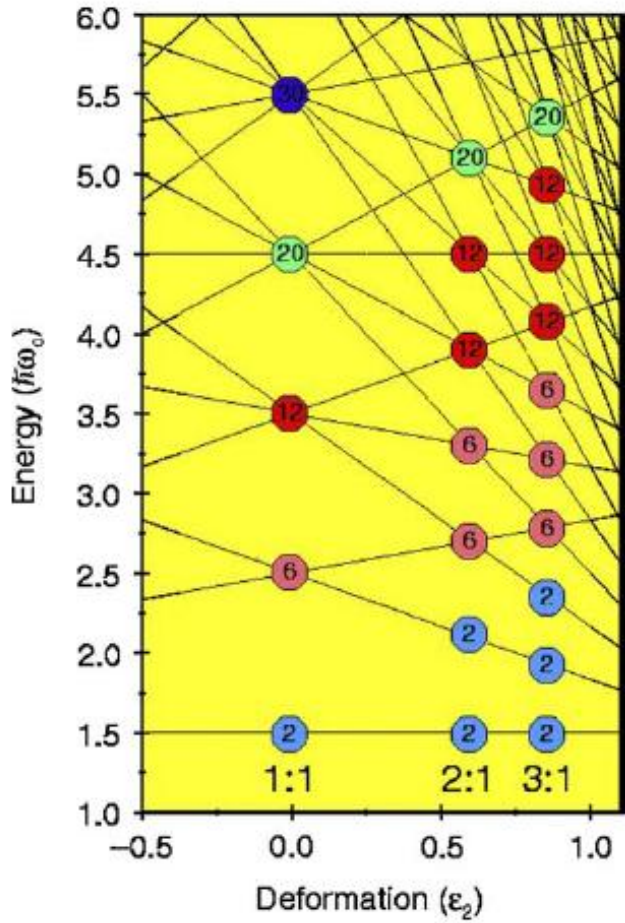
Binding Energy



(p,p α) experiments on $^6,^7\text{Li}$, ^9Be , ^{12}C , ^{40}Ca : large α spectroscopic factor .

α -decay (preformation of α -clusters?)

- Many theoretical models: GTCM, AMD, FMD, GCM, THSR.....
- Earlier two-center models, e.g. TCSM, TCHO

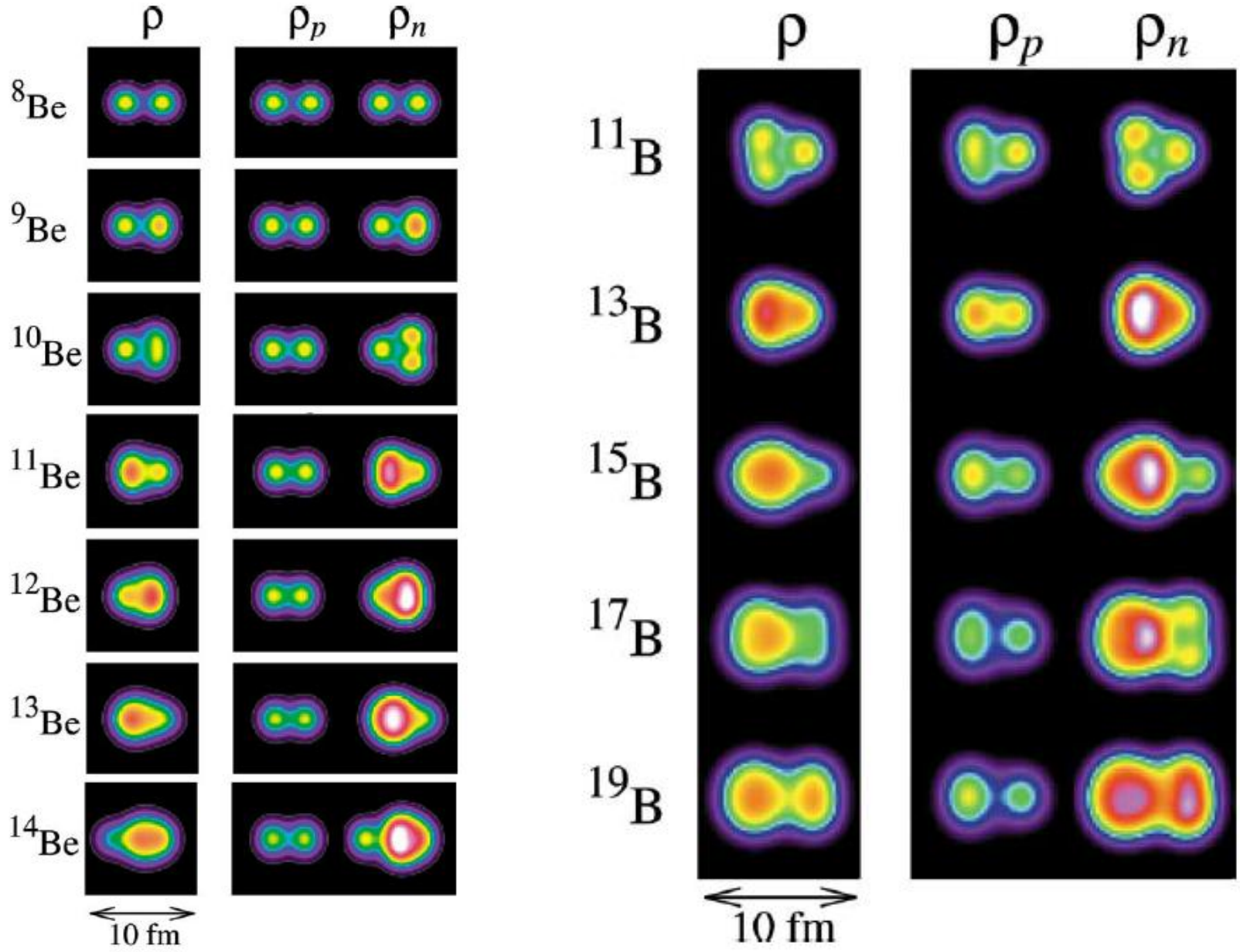


Phy.Rep432(06)43
 C. R. Physique 4 (2003) 475.
 Z. Physik A 357 (1997) 355



• **Anti-symmetrized Molecular Dynamics (AMD)** calculations

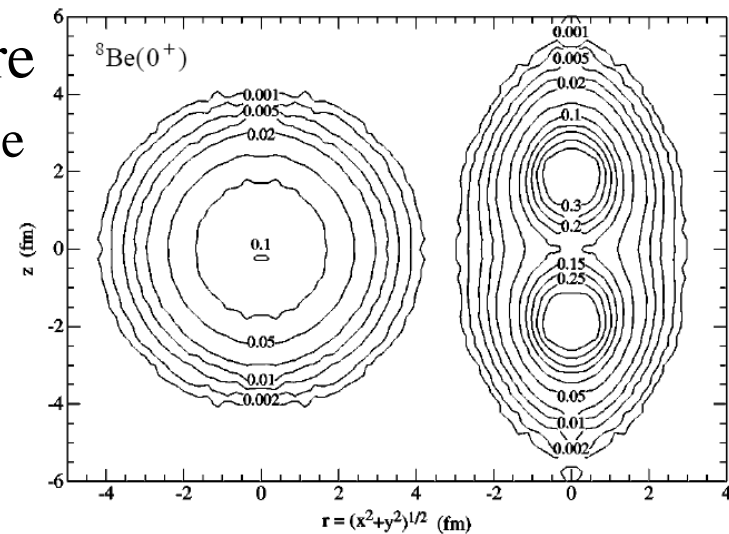
➤ No assumptions on the preformation of clusters. C.R. Phys. 4(03)497





Mean-field theories could not reproduce the cluster structure.

- Ab initio Calculation of ${}^8\text{Be}$: $\alpha+\alpha$ structure
- Variational Monte Carlo with realistic nuclear force
[PRC62(00)014001]

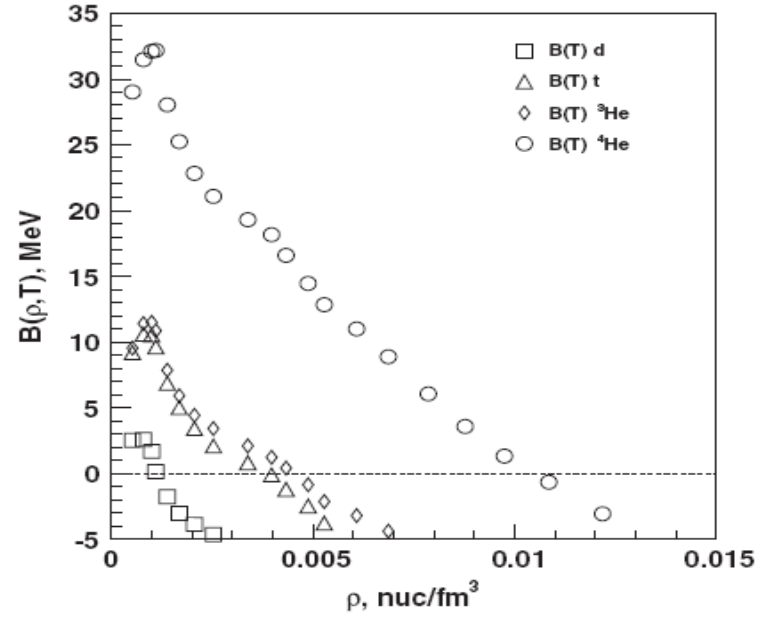
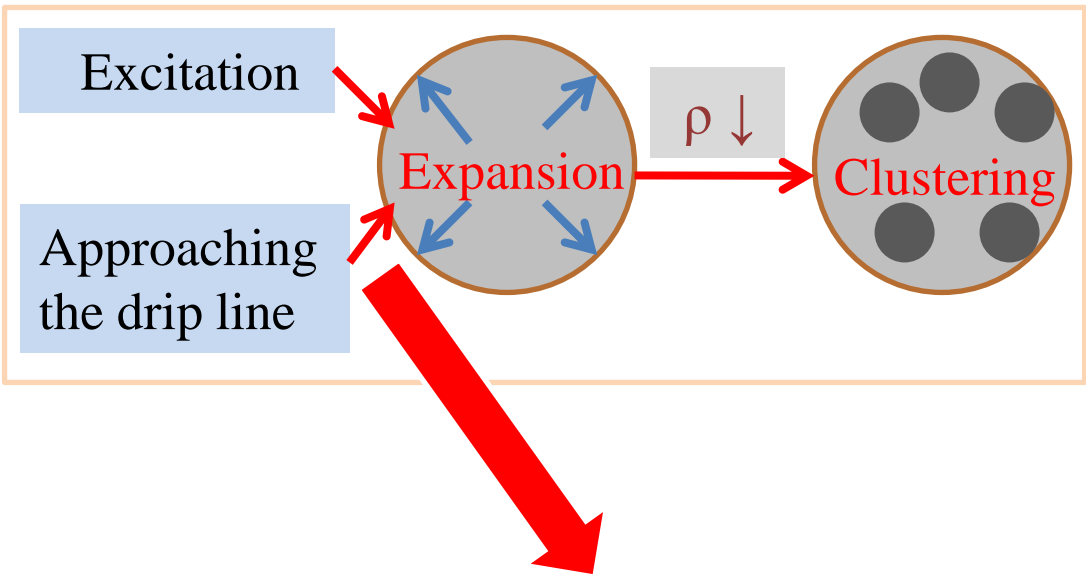


Duality of nuclear wave functions (WF): mean field + cluster

- e.g. closed-shell WF of ${}^{16}\text{O}(\text{g.s.})$ is equivalent to ${}^{12}\text{C} + \alpha$ cluster WF.

- **The mechanism of cluster formation is far from settled.**
- “Clusters of wave functions” + “binding”.
- May be attributed to accumulation of the “**relative tightness**” of local clusters, stemming from the decrease of environmental matter density.
- Measurements in heavy ion collisions.

K. Ikeda, PTPS, E464(1968)
 K. Hagel, PRL108(2012) 062702



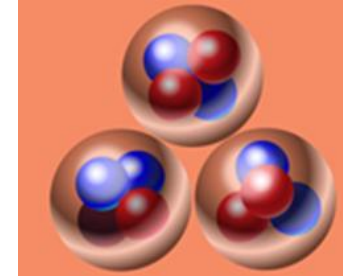
Systematic measurements in neutron-rich nuclei needed.

Nuclear clusters in astrophysics

Key role in nucleosynthesis processes

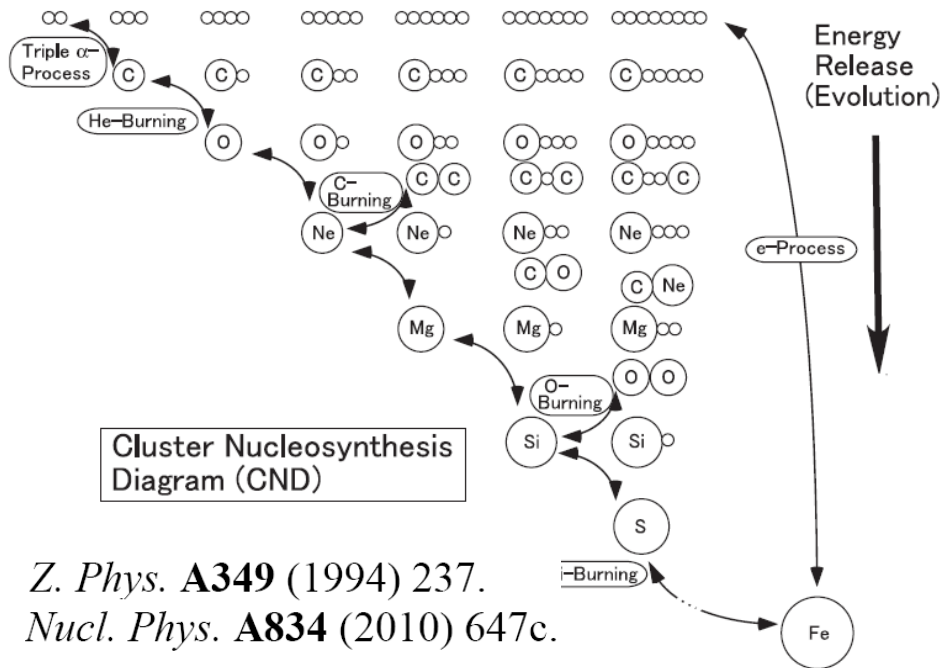
>e.g. the Hoyle state in ^{12}C

>Cluster Nucleosynthesis Diagram (S. Kubono)



Nuclear clusters in the outer crust of neutron star

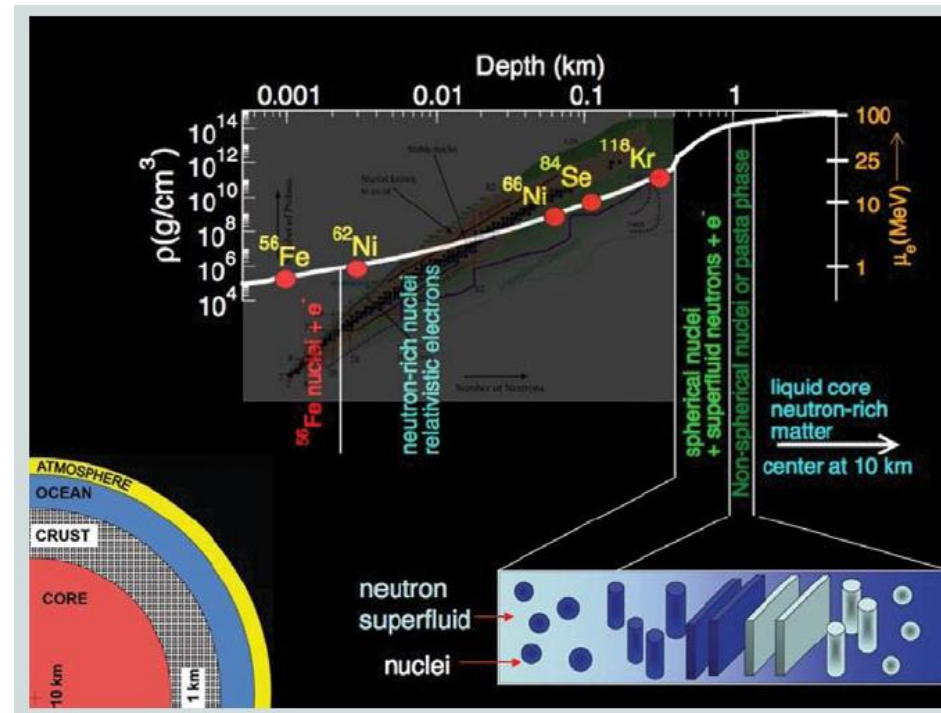
(Science304(04)536)



Cluster Nucleosynthesis Diagram (CND)

Z. Phys. **A349** (1994) 237.

Nucl. Phys. **A834** (2010) 647c.

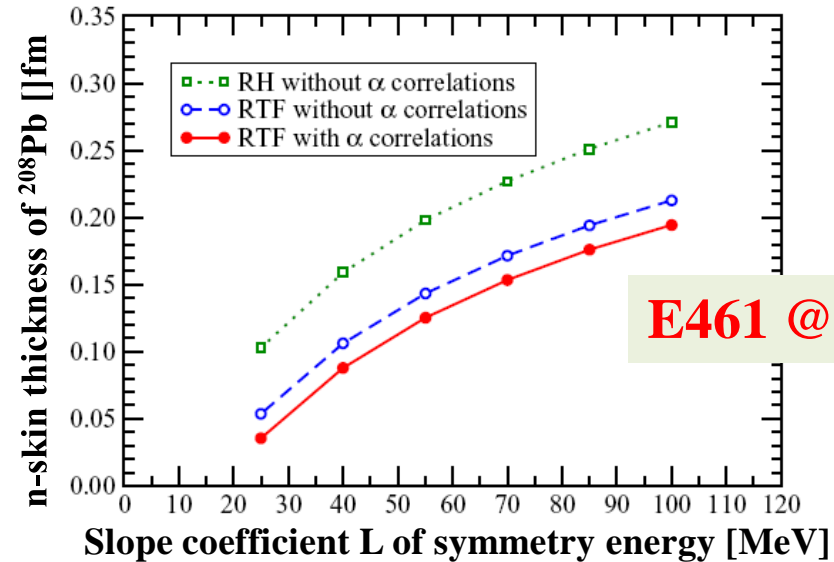
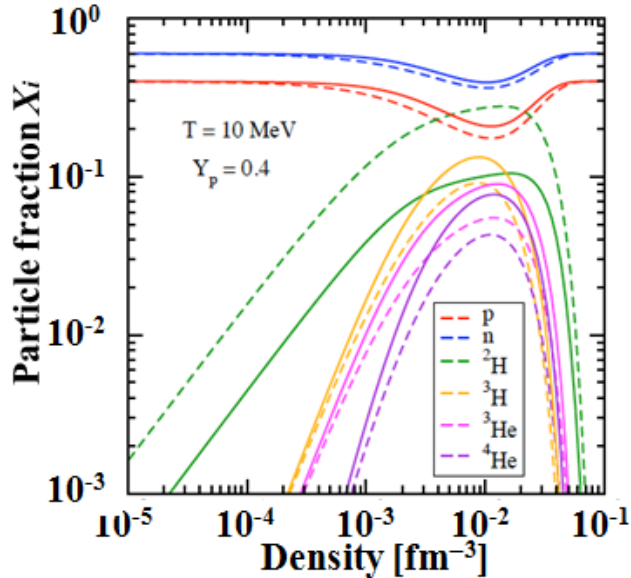


Cluster correlation in nuclear matter (EOS)

Generalized relativistic density functional theory (gRDF)

> Consistent description of nucleon and cluster [PRC 81(2010) 015803, 89(2014) 064321]

> Clustering occurs at $\rho=0.001-0.03 \text{ fm}^{-3}$ (nuclear matter and finite nuclei)



E461 @ RCNP

Cluster-correlation
in nuclear matter

gRDF

Cluster in the surface
of heavier nuclei

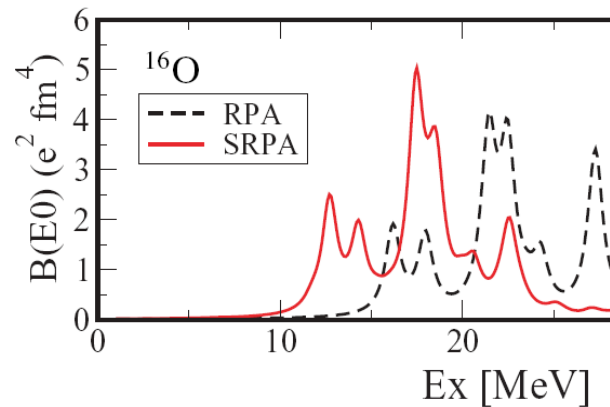
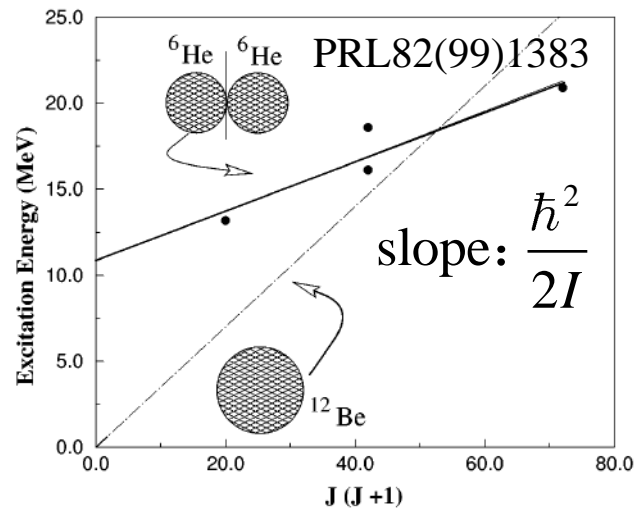
Nuclear equation of state (EOS)

Neutron-skin thickness

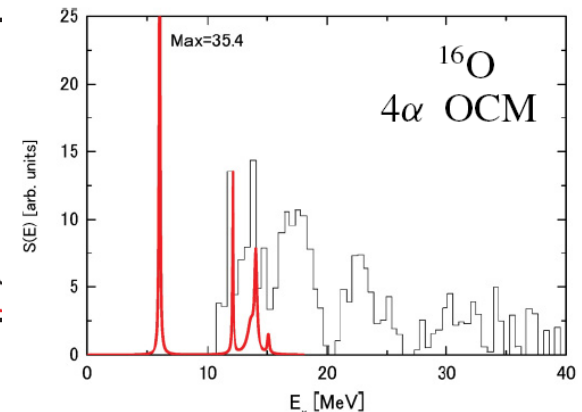
e.g. ^{208}Pb , ^{132}Sn

Experimental investigations of cluster states

- **Cluster structure in the excited states:**
 - Inelastic scattering/transfer/resonant scattering+invariant mass [e.g. ^{12}Be (PRL112(14)162501), ^{10}Be (PRL96(06)042501)]
 - $E_x \sim$ spin systematics (rotational band) \rightarrow large deformation
 - Dominant cluster decay \rightarrow large Cluster Spectroscopic Factor
 - Characteristic transition strength (Monopole transition: sensitive probe)



PTP120(08)1139, PRC 85(12)034315



PRC83(11)044319

- **Very Challenging to make conclusive identification**

- ^{12}C (0^+_{2-}), ^{16}O (0^+_{2-} and 0^+_{3-}), ^{20}Ne (0^+_{4-})
- ^{12}Be (0^+_{3-}), ^{10}Be (4^+)

- **Cluster structure in the ground state:**

- Quasi-free cluster knock out (100 ~300MeV/u)

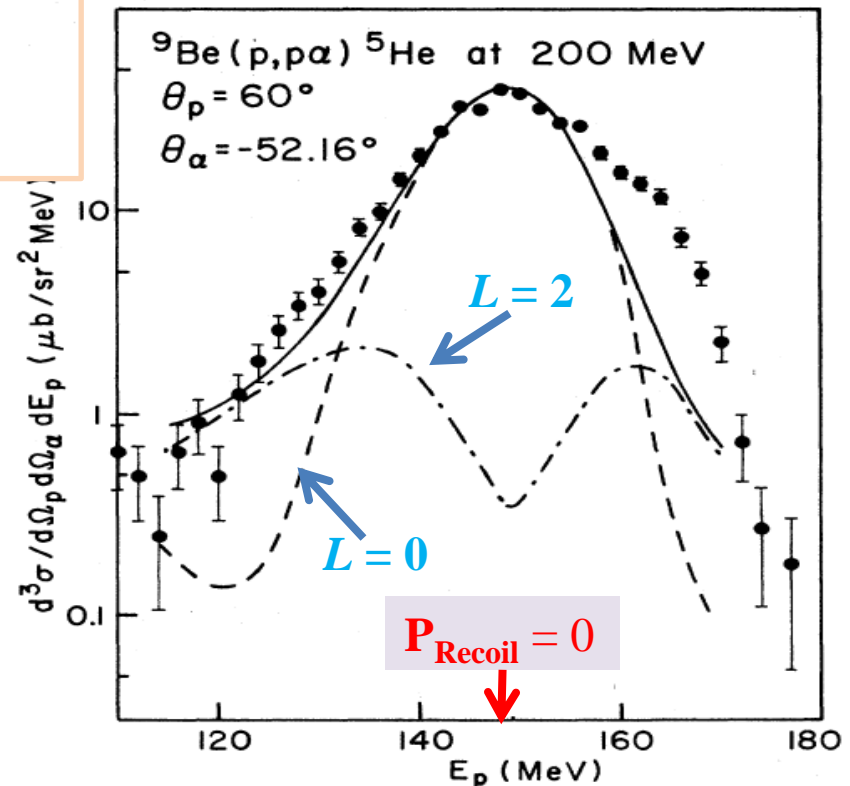
- ${}^6,7\text{Li}, {}^9\text{Be}, {}^{12}\text{C}$ [PRC15(77)69]

- α -cluster spectroscopic factor extracted with DWIA calculations

$$\frac{d^3\sigma}{d\Omega_p d\Omega_\alpha dE_p} = S_\alpha F_k \sum_\lambda |T^{L\lambda}|^2 \frac{d^3\sigma}{d\Omega_{p-\alpha}}$$

Matrix element
(from DWIA calculations)

Free p- α elastic cross section



A. Nadasen, et al., PRC40, 1130 (1989)

outline

Introduction

The cluster structure of ^{12}Be

Research plan at RIKEN

Uniqueness of ^{12}Be in cluster physics

- Breakup of the $N = 8$ magic number

- Decrease of $E_x(2_1^+)$

- Matter density distribution with long tail

- Reduction of β -decay strength (to ^{12}B)

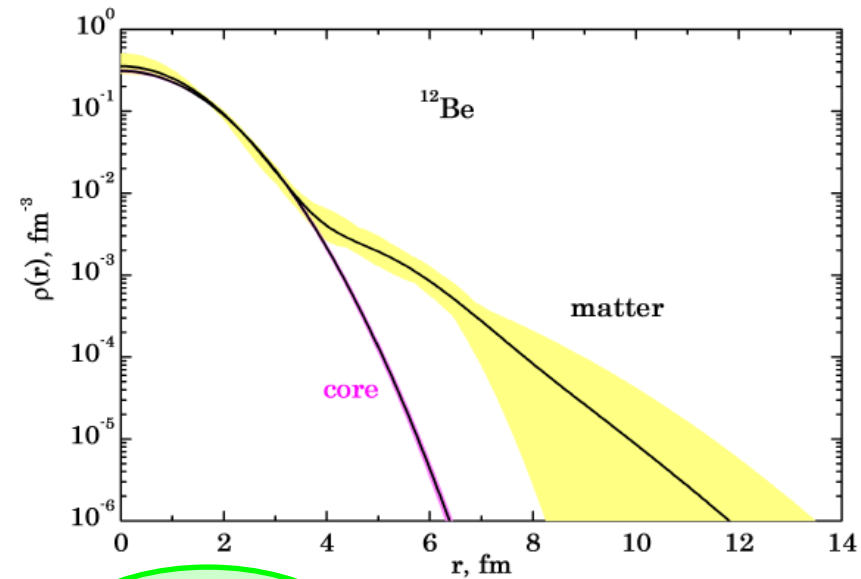
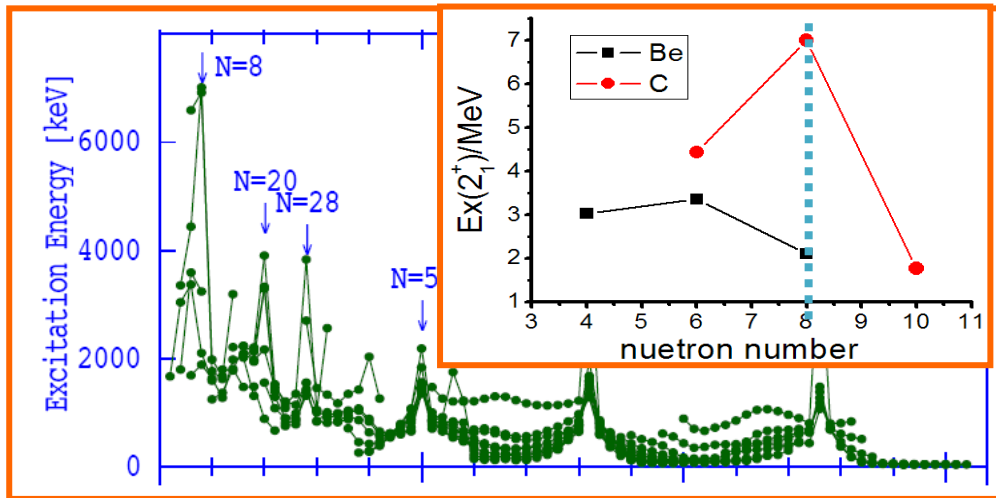
- Ground state Spectroscopic Factors measurements: Intruder state.

PRC50(94)1355

NPA875(12)8

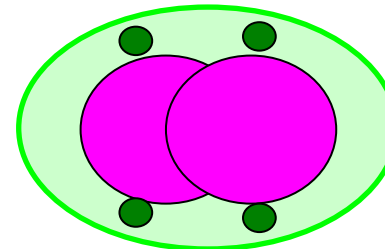
PRL85(00)266

PRL96(06)032502



- α -4n- α cluster structure?

- $^{12}\text{Be}(\text{g.s.})$: Dominant $(\pi_{3/2}^-)^2(\sigma_{1/2}^+)^2$

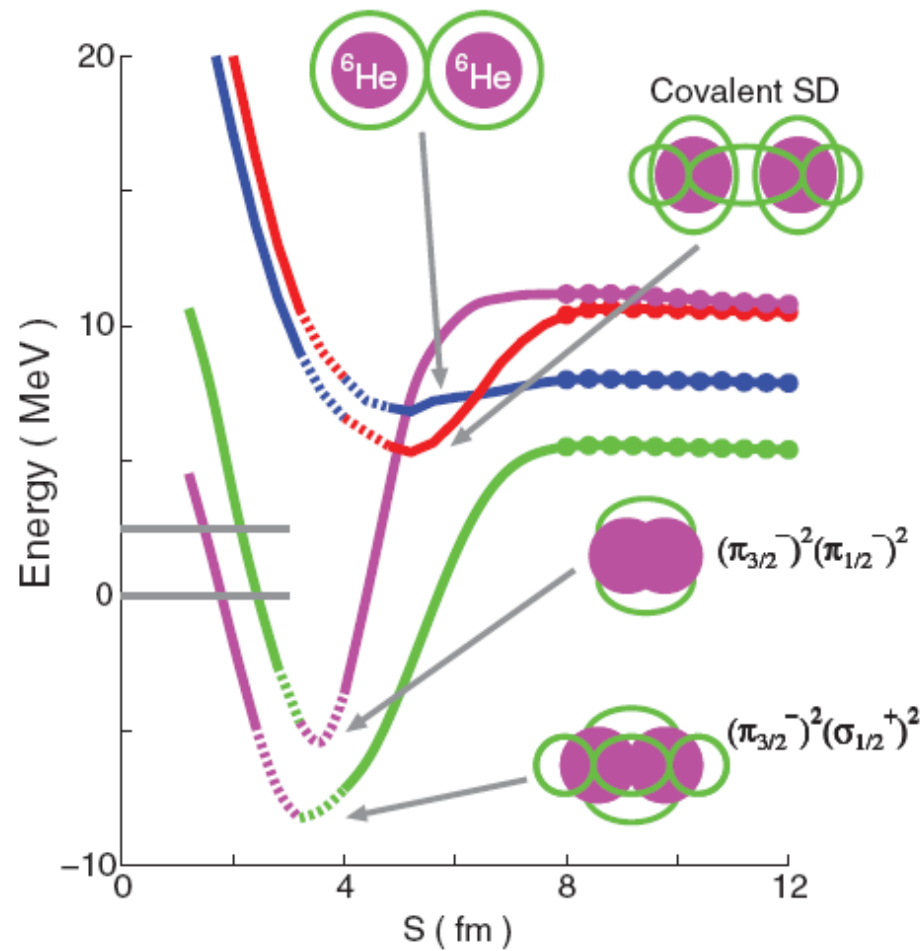
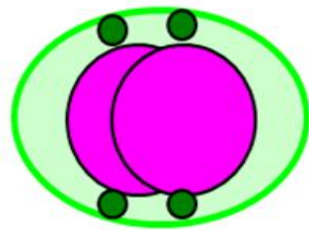


PRL100(2008)182502

PRC85(12)014302

- **Rich cluster structures predicted by GTCM calculations**

- “Covalently” binding (MO) configurations for low-lying states.
- Molecular Resonance (MR) states above particle emission threshold.



M. Ito, et al.
 PRL100(2008)182502
 PRC85(12)014302
 PRC85(12)044308

- **AMD and GCM calculations**

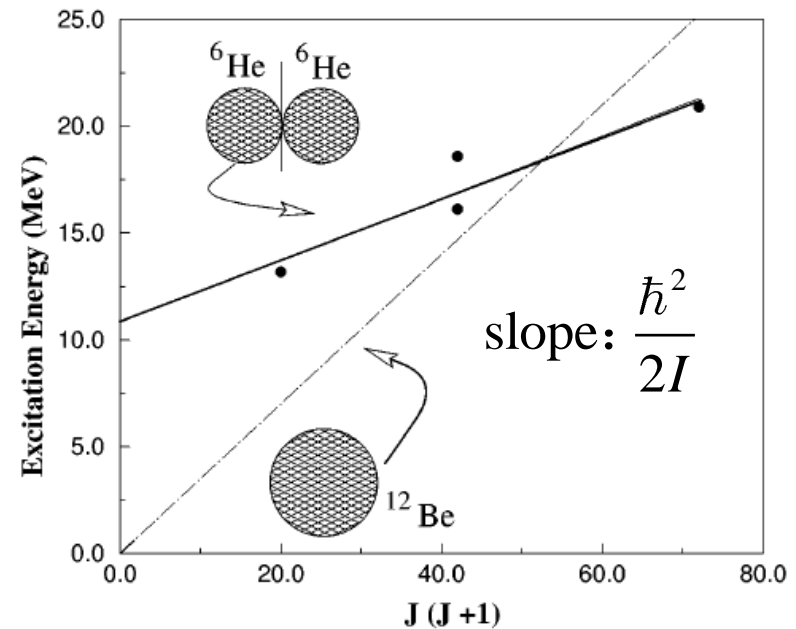
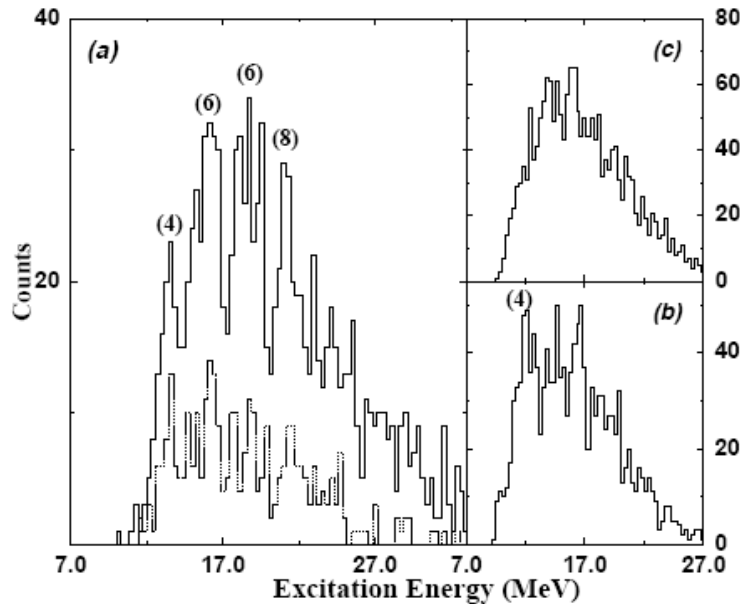
PRC68(03)014319, NPA836(10)242

Studies on the cluster structure of ^{12}Be

- **Inelastic scattering** (Korshennikov) : hints of ~ 10 MeV cluster state
- **2-n or 3-n transfer** (W. Von Oertzen) : high-lying excited states

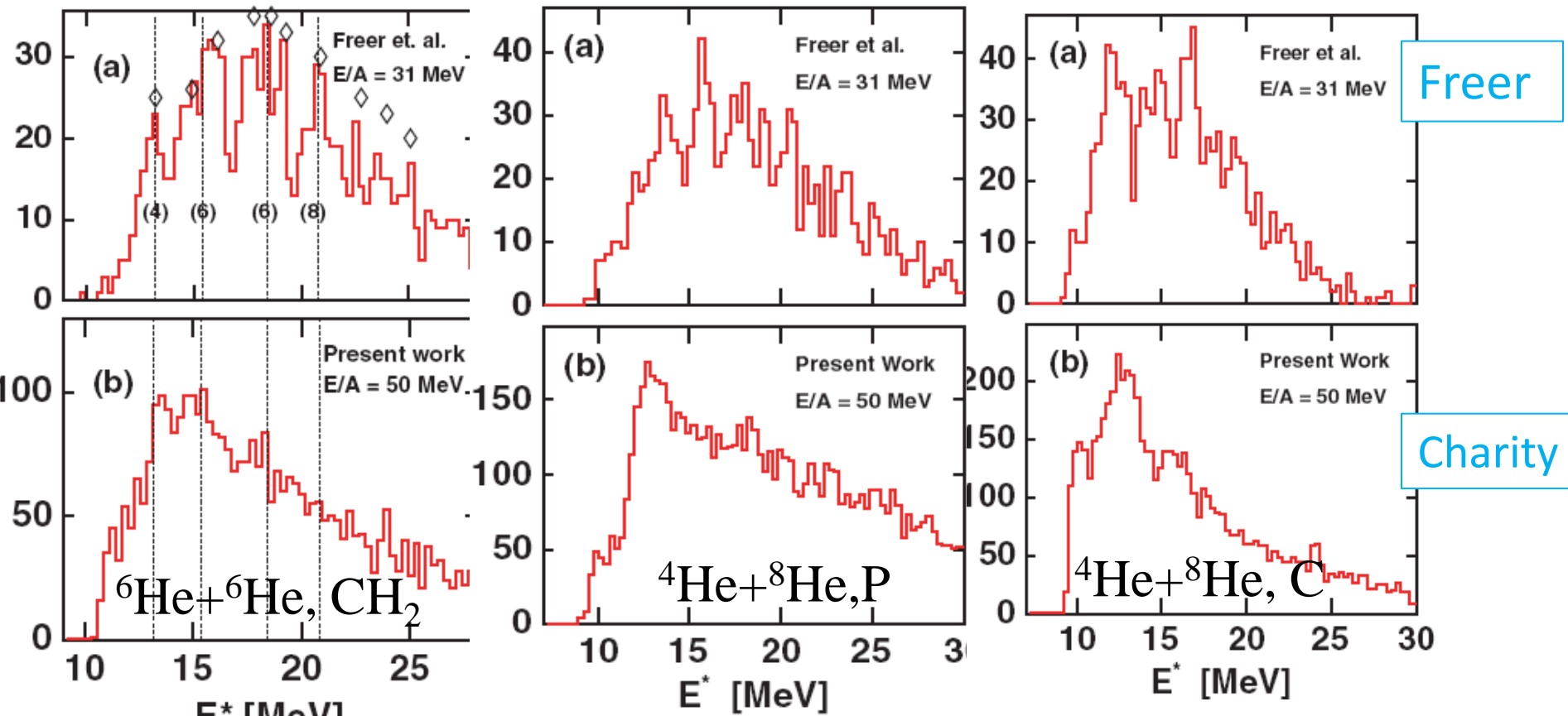
PLB 343(95)53 IJMPE 10(08)2067

- **Inelastic breakup & measurements of the fragments** (Freer et al.)
 - A rotational band observed with large deformation, in accordance with the cluster structure. [*PRL82(99)383*]



- Inelastic breakup & measurements of the fragments (Charity et al)**

➤ Most of the resonances observed by Freer were not reproduced. (50AMeV)



PRC76(07)064313, NPA 738(04)337

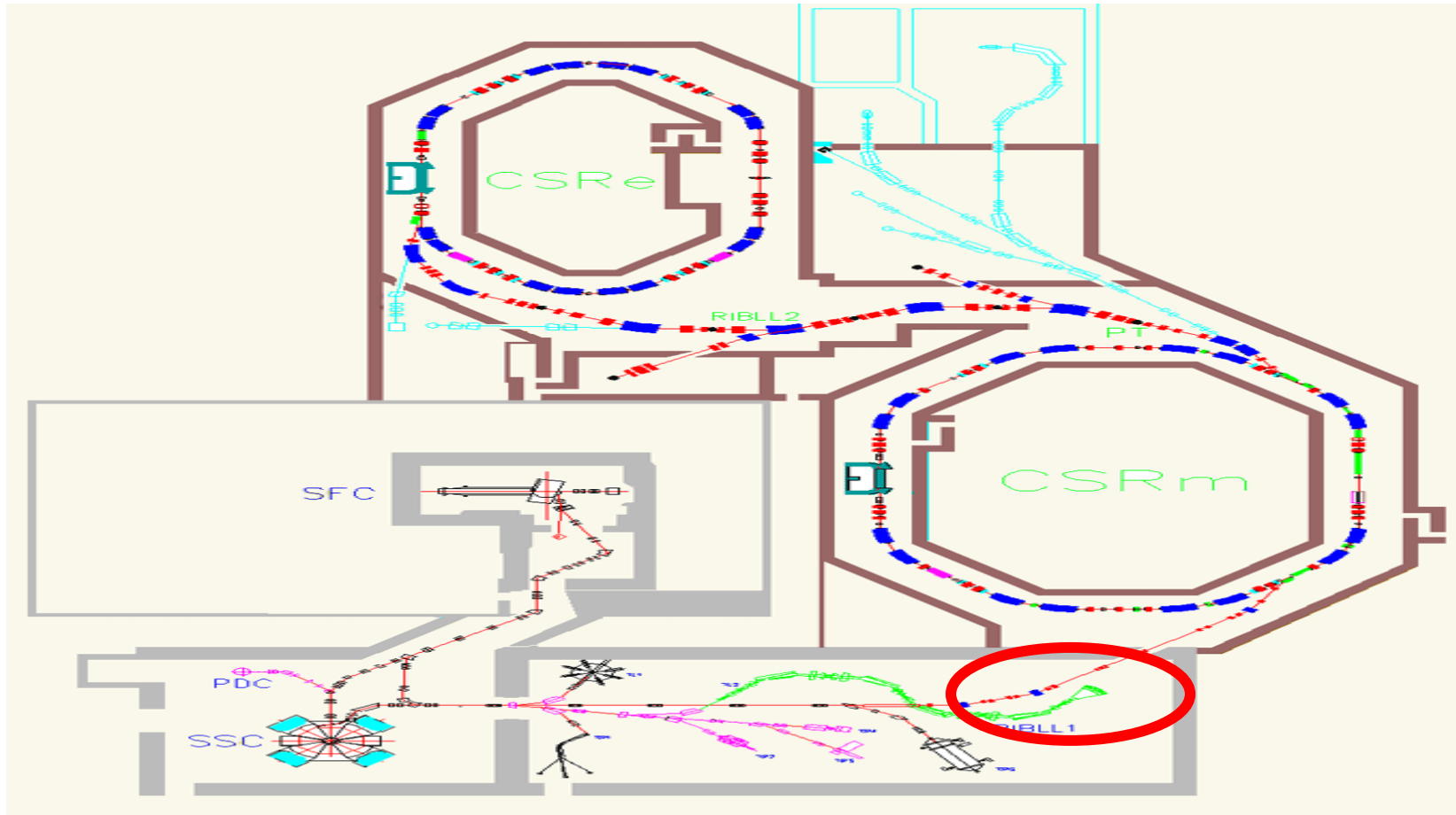
- Inelastic breakup & measurements of the fragments (Saito et al.)**

➤ Similar to Charity's: dominant by non-resoant background. (60AMeV)

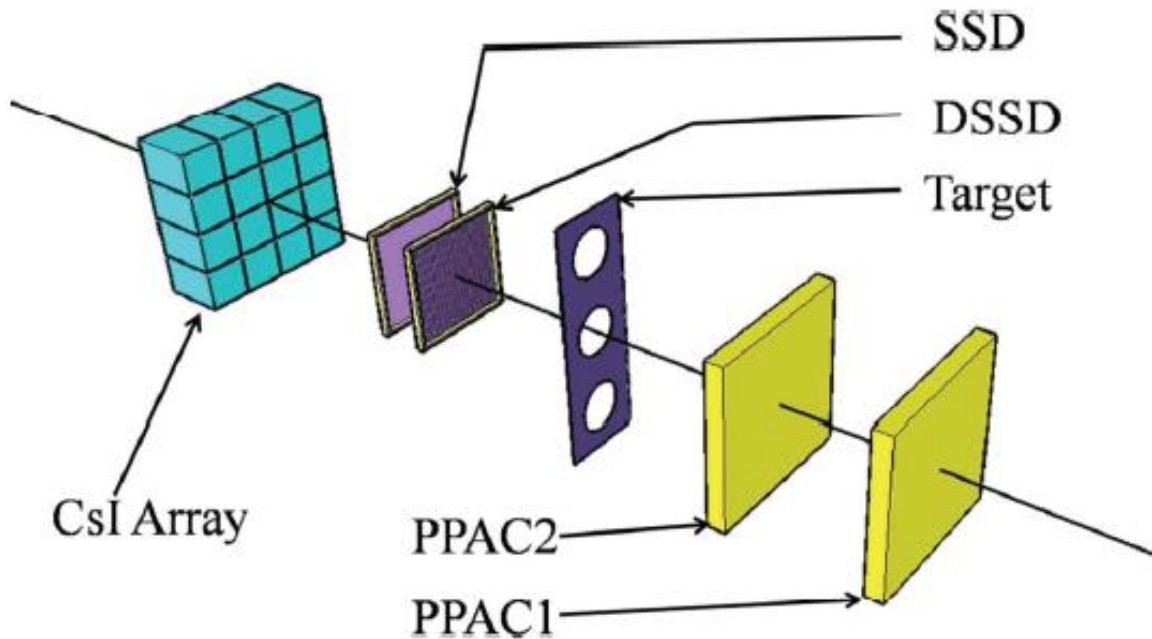
- Enhancement of non-resoant process suggested by AMD.**

PRC63(01)034615

RIBLL1@HIRFL,Lanzhou, China



Experimental Setup



Beam: ^{12}Be , 29 MeV/u, ~ 3000 pps

Target: Carbon, 100 mg/cm^2

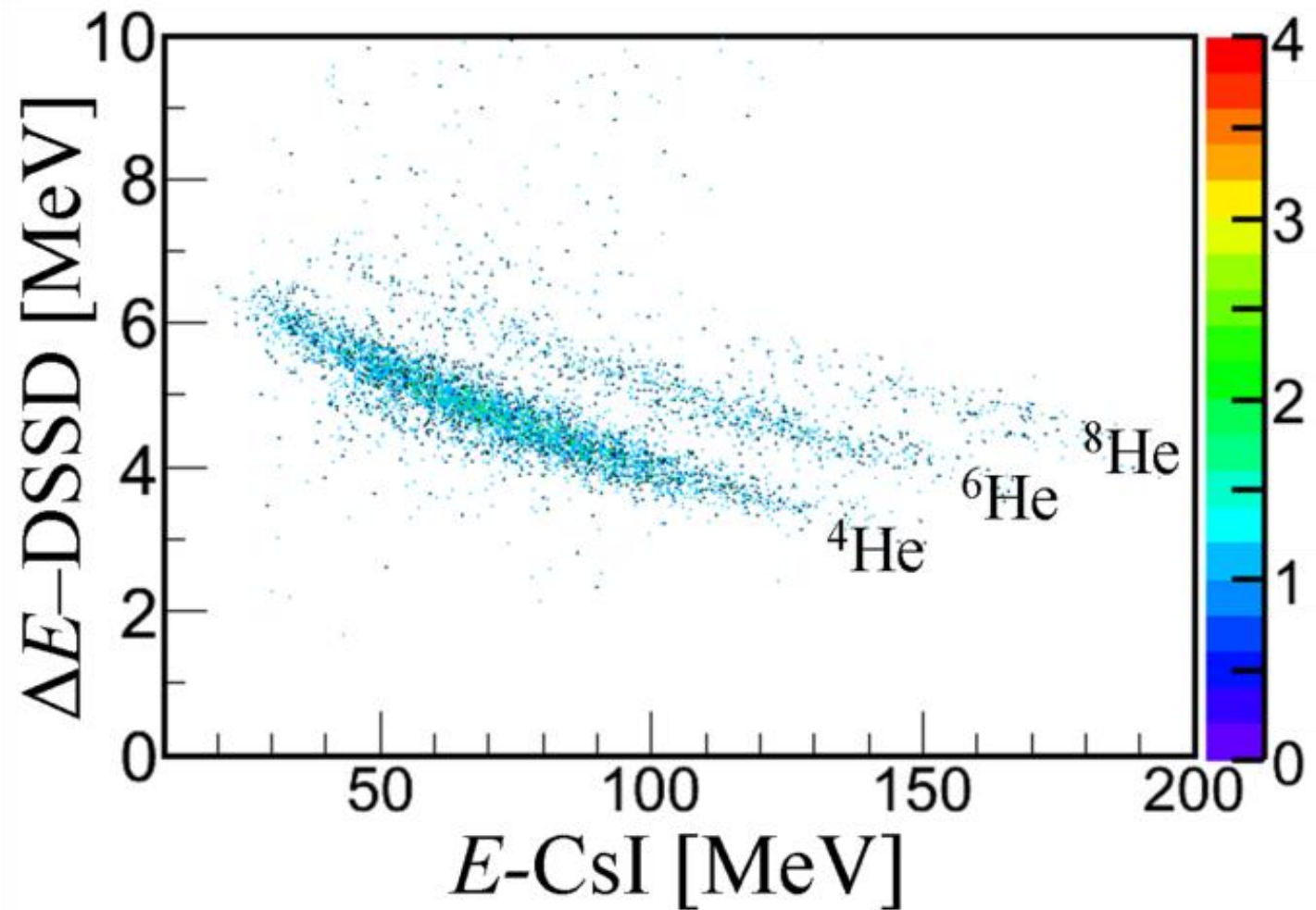
DSSD: 32 2mm-stip, $300 \mu\text{m}$,

CsI: $2.5\text{cm} \times 2.5\text{cm} \times 3\text{cm}$,

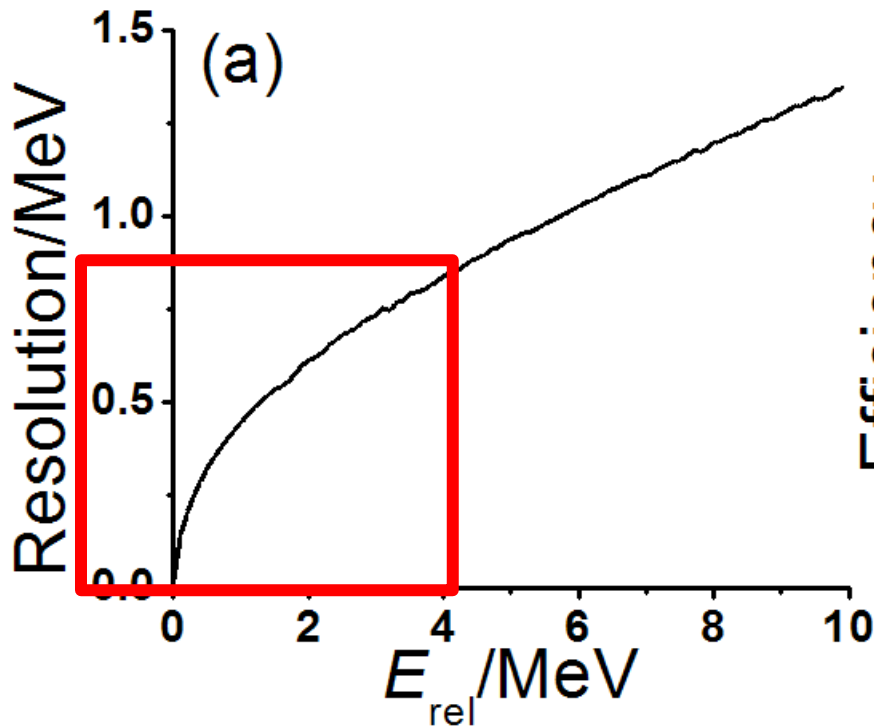
Detection focused on the most forward angles ($0^\circ \sim 12^\circ$)

Multiplicity-2 events for cluster decay!

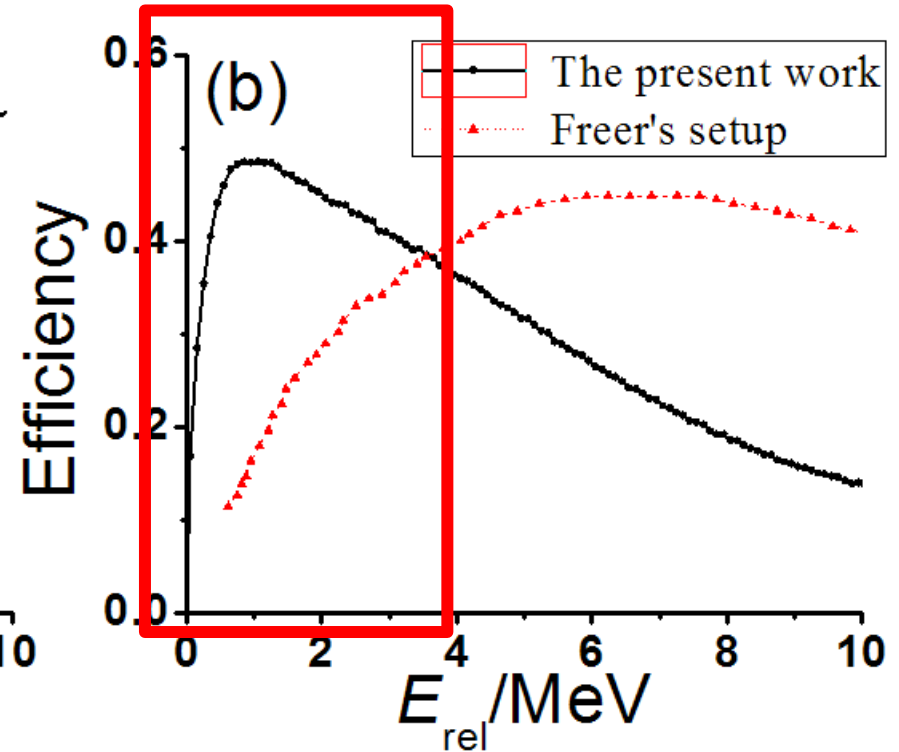
Particle Identification of Fragments



E_{rel} resolution



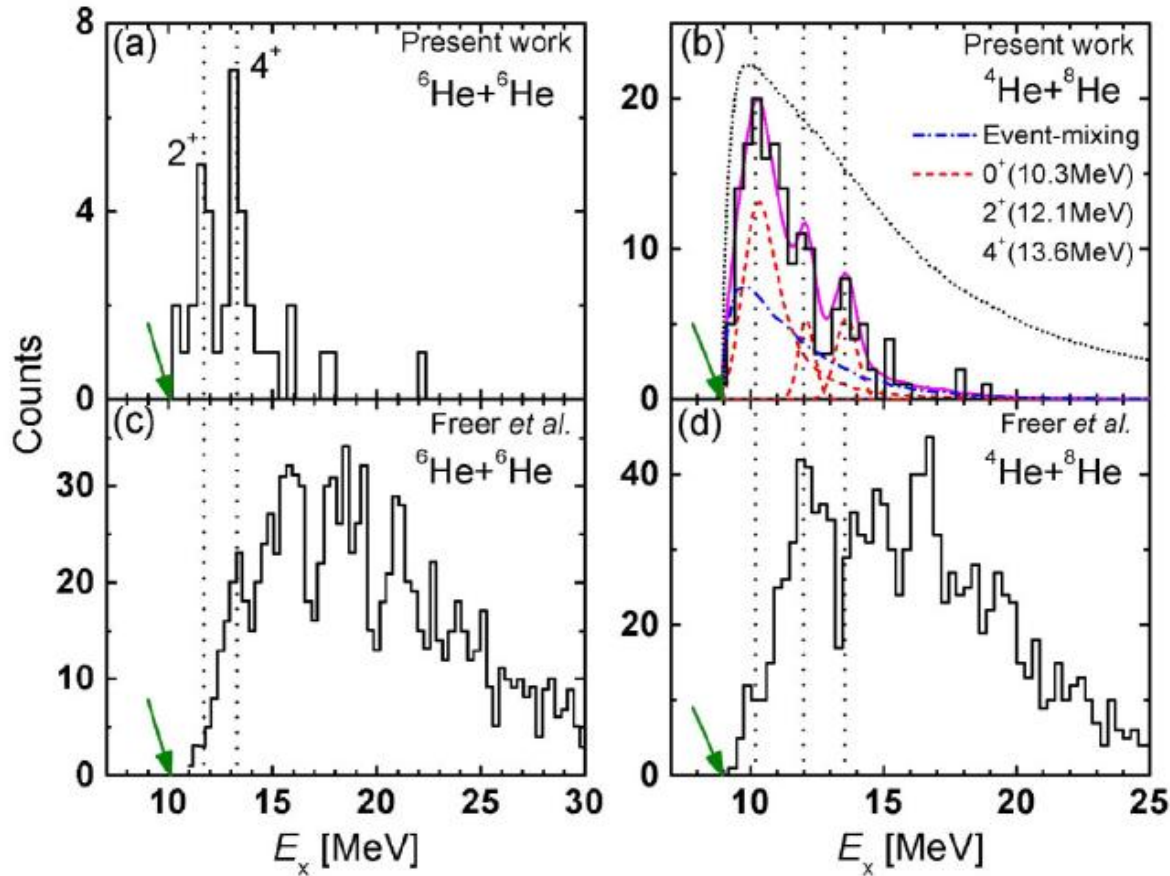
Detection efficiency



Resolution is below 1 MeV, which is mainly limited by the target thickness .

Our setup is much in favor of the low E_{rel} detection in comparison to that of Freer's experiment.

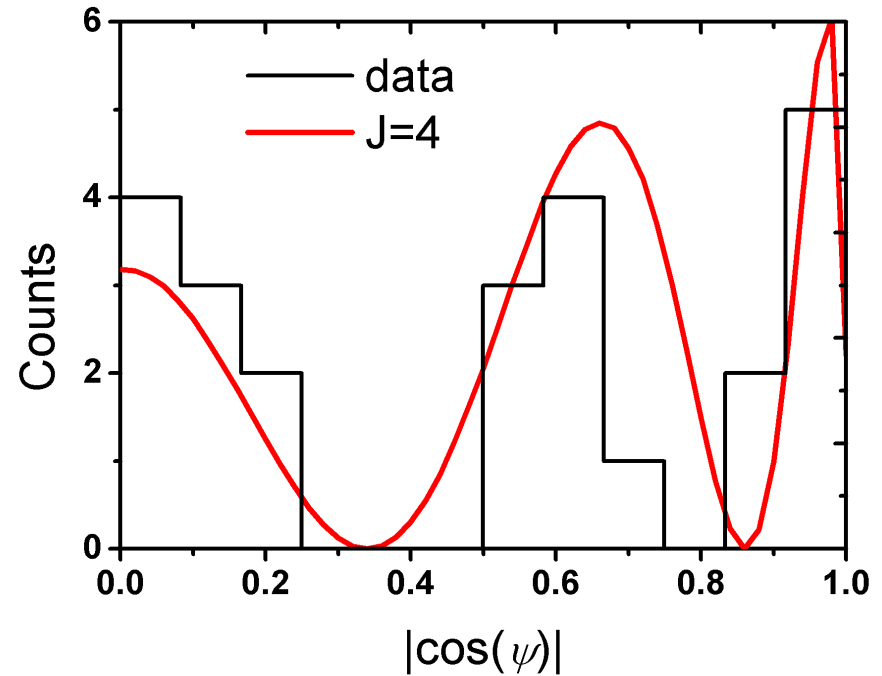
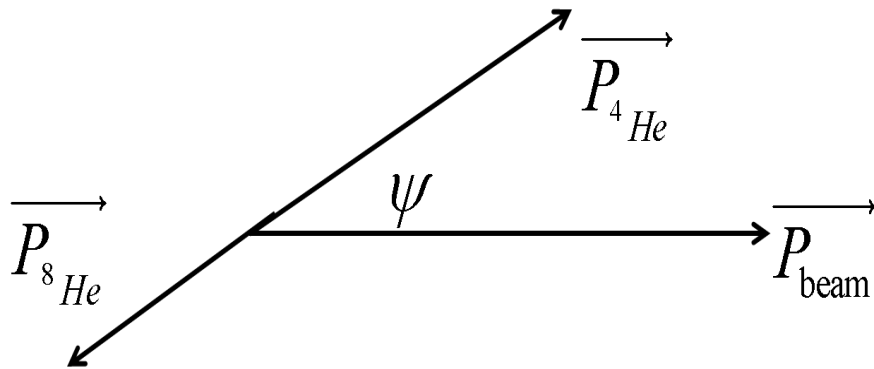
Excitation Energy Spectrum of ^{12}Be



The (total) width of the 10.3 MeV state is determined to be **1.5(2) MeV**, which agrees well with the GTCM calculation. PRC84(11)014608

➤ **AMD**: larger width for the band-head than for other higher spin members of the $^6\text{He}+^6\text{He}$ band. PRC68(03)014319

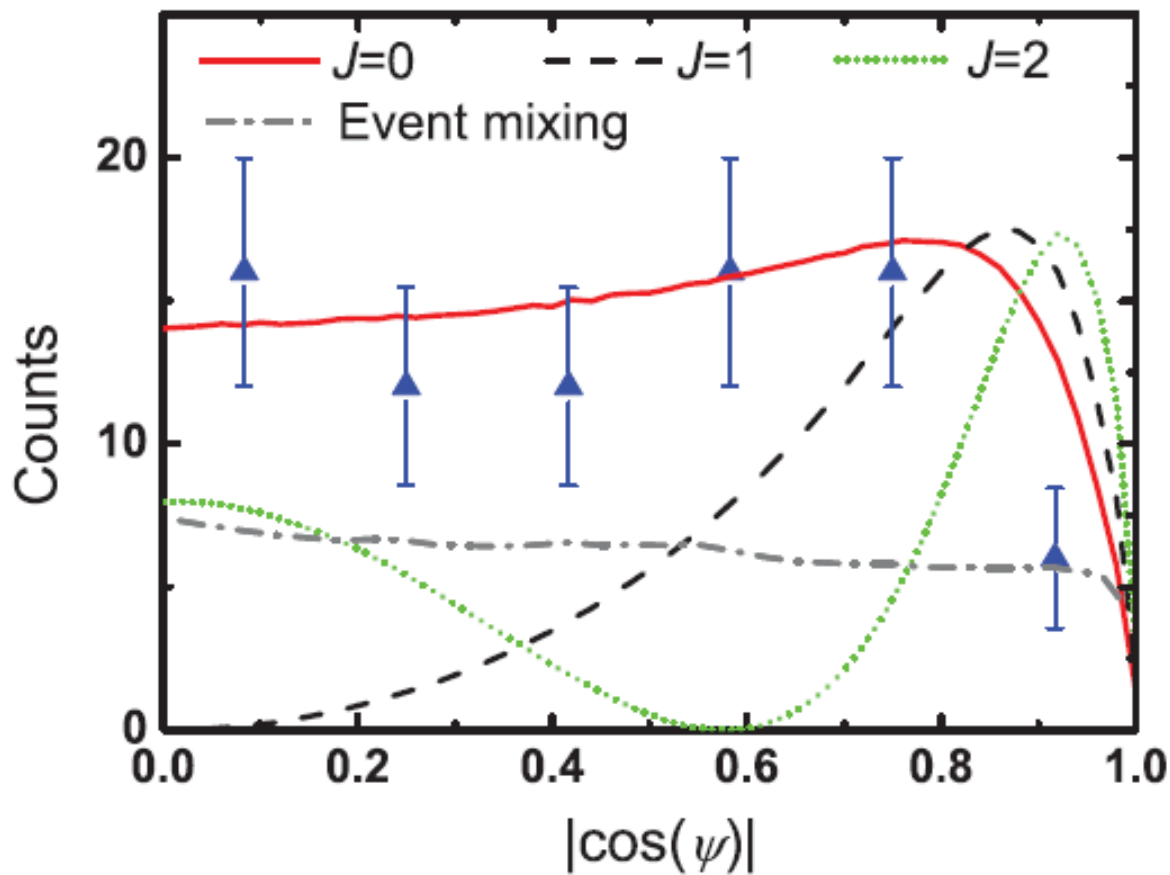
Angular correlation analysis for 13.6MeV state



The analysis for 13.6MeV state (${}^4\text{He}+{}^8\text{He}$) is consistent with the 4^+ expectation. *PRL82(99)383*

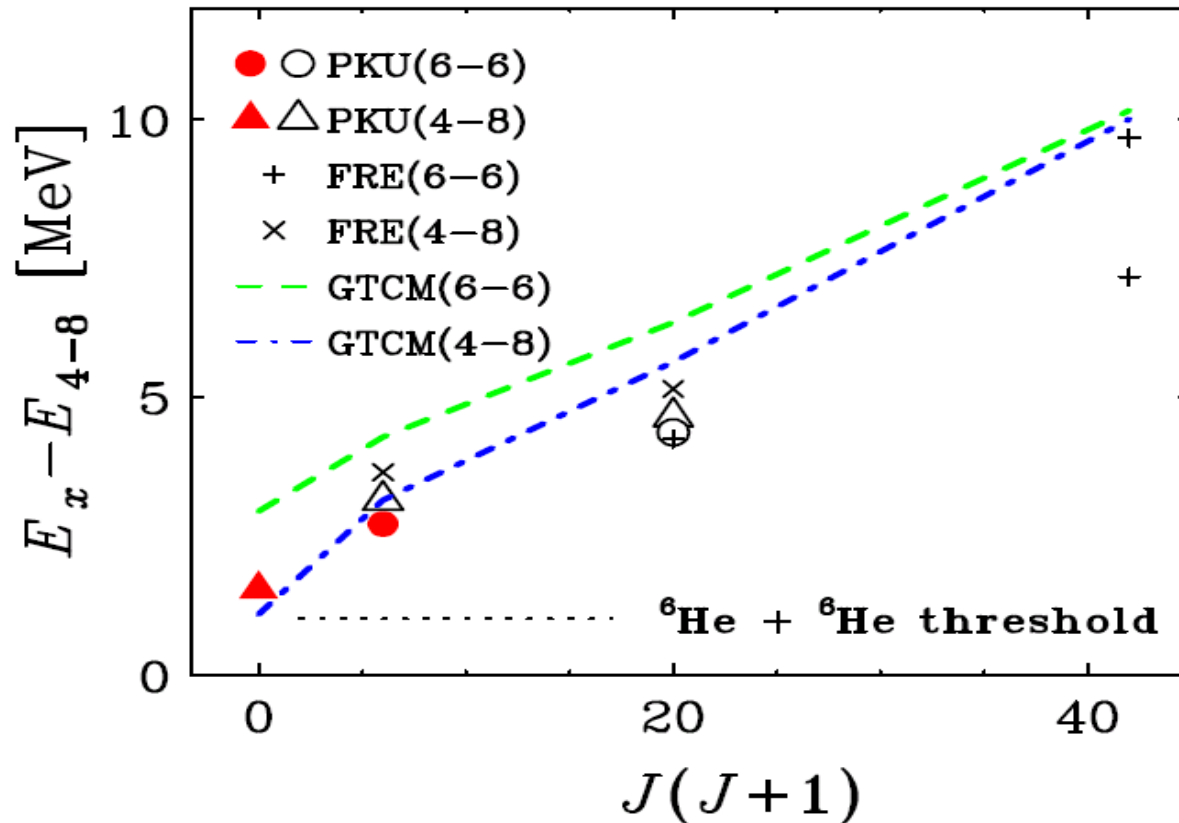
The high sensitivity of this method in the present work can also be demonstrated.

Angular correlation analysis for 10.3 MeV state



The spin-parity of the 10.3 MeV state can be definitely determined to be 0^+ .

Molecular rotational bands



Concl.1#

➤ The GTCM calculation reproduces well the ${}^4\text{He}+{}^8\text{He}$ band, but overestimates the ${}^6\text{He}+{}^6\text{He}$ band by about 1.5 MeV.

Monopole transition matrix M(IS)

- **M(IS) and the Energy weighted sum rule (EWSR)**

$$M(\text{IS}, 0_1^+ \rightarrow 0_n^+) = \langle 0_1^+ | \sum_{i=1}^A (\vec{r}_i - \mathbf{R}_{\text{cm}})^2 | 0_n^+ \rangle$$
$$S(\text{IS}) = \sum_{\text{all excited } 0_n^+} (E_{x,n} | M(\text{IS}, 0_1^+ \rightarrow 0_n^+) |^2) = \frac{2\hbar^2}{m} A R_{\text{rms}}^2$$

T. Yamada, PRC 85(12)034315; D J Horsen PRC52(95)1554

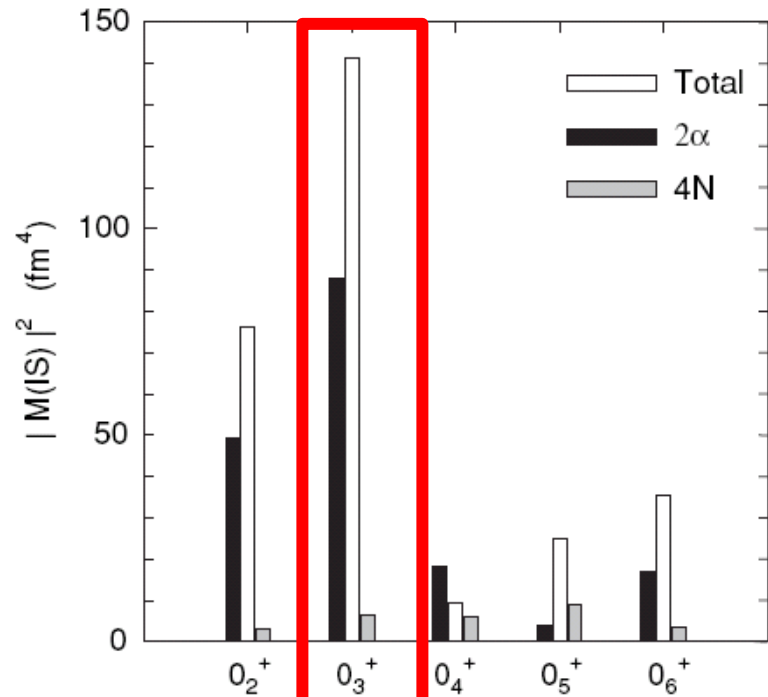
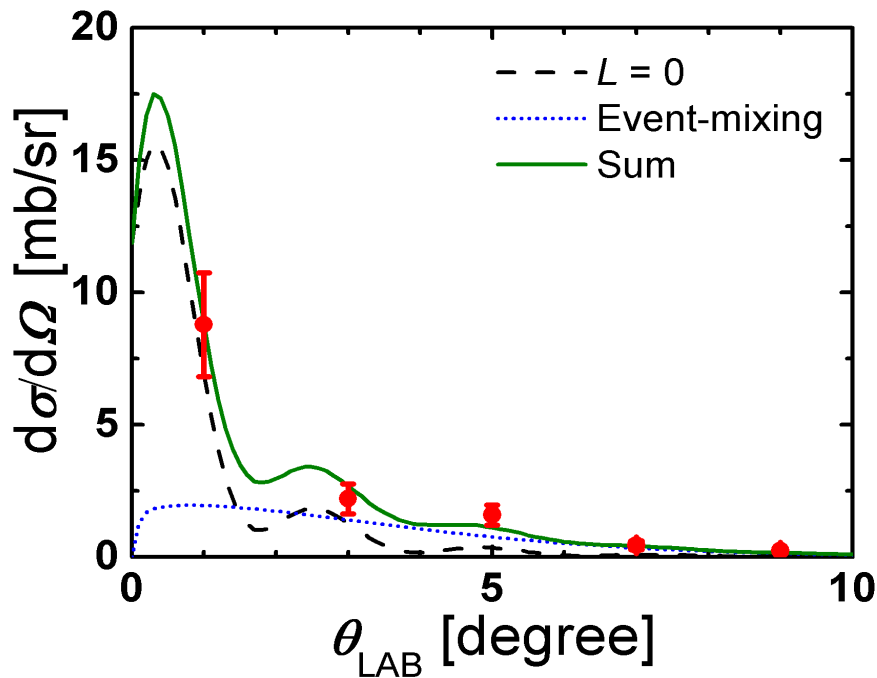
- **EWSR_fraction extracted from angular distribution analysis**
 - Widely used in stable even-even nuclei (e.g ^{12}C , ^{16}O , ^{40}Ca) and ^{11}B
 - Proper treatment of the background from event-mixing.
 - Only $L = 0$ is taken into account for the current analysis

$$\left(\frac{d\sigma}{d\Omega}\right)^{\text{exp}} = \sum_L a_L \left(\frac{d\sigma}{d\Omega}\right)_L^{\text{DWBA}} + \left(\frac{d\sigma}{d\Omega}\right)^{\text{b.g.}}$$

- **M(IS):** $|M(\text{IS})|^2 * E_x = S(\text{IS}) * \text{EWSR_fraction}$

M(IS) for the 10.3 MeV state

Concl.2#



M. Ito, PRC83(11)044319

From analysis of the angular distribution, the M(IS) is extracted:
 $M(\text{IS}) = 7.0 \text{ fm}^2 \pm 1.0 \text{ fm}^2(\text{stat}) \pm 0.8 \text{ fm}^2(\text{sys})$.

➤ ****Only for the ${}^4\text{He} + {}^8\text{He}$ decay channel.**

➤ A strength of $\sim 10 \text{ fm}^2$ is predicted from GTCM calculation with α -4n- α configuration.

➤ The respective single particle transition strength is $\sim 3 \text{ fm}^2$

Spectroscopic analysis with R-matrix

Width

$$\Gamma_{\alpha}(E) = 2\gamma_{\alpha}^2 P_l(E)$$

γ_{α}^2 -reduced width

$P_l(E)$ – penetrability

$$P_l(E) = \frac{ka}{F_l(ka)^2 + G_l(ka)^2} \quad (k = \sqrt{2\mu E_{rel}})$$

$F_l(ka), G_l(ka)$: regular and irregular colomb functions

Non-dimensional reduced width (Cluster spectroscopic factor)

$$\theta^2 = \frac{\gamma_{\alpha}^2}{\gamma_w^2} \quad \gamma_w^2 = \frac{3\hbar^2}{2\mu a^2} : \text{wigner limit} \quad (0 \leq \theta^2 \leq 1)$$

The (total) width of the 10.3 MeV state is $1.5(2)$ MeV.

➤!!! It's not the cluster decay width.

➤Many other decay channels, like neutron emission and gamma transition are also open at $E_x \sim 10$ MeV.

1、 From the phase-space calculation, the main decay channel are determined: ${}^4\text{He}+{}^8\text{He}$, ${}^6\text{He}+{}^6\text{He}$, ${}^{11}\text{Be}+n$, ${}^{10}\text{Be}+2n$, ${}^{12}\text{Be}+\gamma$

2、 The branching ratio for neutron/ γ emission channel to ${}^{10-12}\text{Be}$ was determined:

$$\Gamma_{Be} / \Gamma_{tot} = 0.28 \pm 0.12$$

A. A. Korshennikov, PLB 343(1995)53

Cluster decay branching ratio: $\Gamma_{He} / \Gamma_{tot} = 1 - \Gamma_{Be} / \Gamma_{tot} = 0.72 \pm 0.12$

Cluster decay width: $\Gamma_{He} = 1.1(2)$ MeV

- Only negligible ${}^6\text{He}+{}^6\text{He}$ events are observed ($E_x \sim 10\text{MeV}$).
- The following discussions are thus restricted to the ${}^4\text{He}+{}^8\text{He}$ channel.

Channel radius a: $a = r_0 (A_1^{1/3} + A_2^{1/3}) = 5 \text{ fm}$, ($r_0 = 1.4 \text{ fm}$)

- $a = 5\text{fm}$ was also suggested from AMD calculation.

Reduced width

$$\gamma_\alpha^2 = \frac{\Gamma_{He}}{2P_0(E_x)} = 0.50(9) \text{ MeV}$$

Cluster spectroscopic factor

$$\theta_{He}^2 = \frac{\gamma_\alpha^2}{\gamma_w^2} = 0.53(10)$$



Concl.3#

Strong clustering

**For the ground state of ${}^8\text{Be}$ (α - α), $\theta_\alpha^2 = 0.45$

Collaborators

- Y. L. Ye, Z. H. Li, *F. R. Xu*, Y. C. Ge, D. X. Jiang, Q. T. Li, H. Hua, J. L. Lou, *J. C. Pei*, R. Qiao, H. B. You, J. Chen, J. Li, Y. L. Sun, Z. Y. Tian
J. S. Wang, Y. Y. Yang, P. Ma, J. B. Ma, S. L. Jin, J. L. Han
J. Lee
- *Valuable discussions with M. Freer and M. Ito*

Summary

1、 An inelastic breakup experiment was carried out at RIBLL to study the cluster structure of ^{12}Be :

- Confirmation of molecular rotational bands.
- Determination of the enhanced Monopole transition matrix for the 10.3 MeV state: $M(\text{IS})=7.0\text{fm}^2 \pm 1.0\text{fm}^2$
- Determination of the large cluster spectroscopic factor for the 10.3 MeV state: $\theta_{\text{He}}^2 = 0.53(10)$

The three experimental signals consistently demonstrate the cluster cluster in ^{12}Be .

2、 The zero-degree-detection technique developed in this work is demonstrated to be a promising method to measure the monopole transition and explore the cluster formation in unstable nuclei.

outline

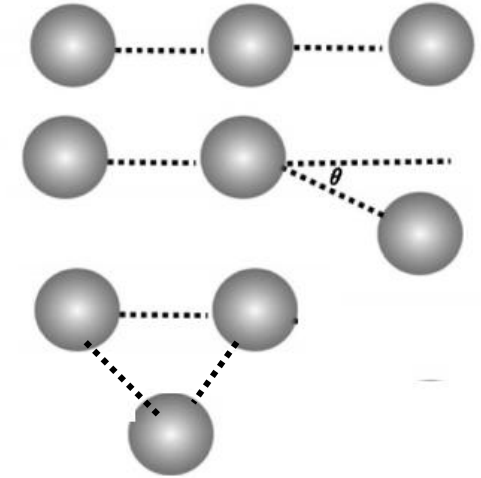
Introduction

The cluster structure of ^{12}Be

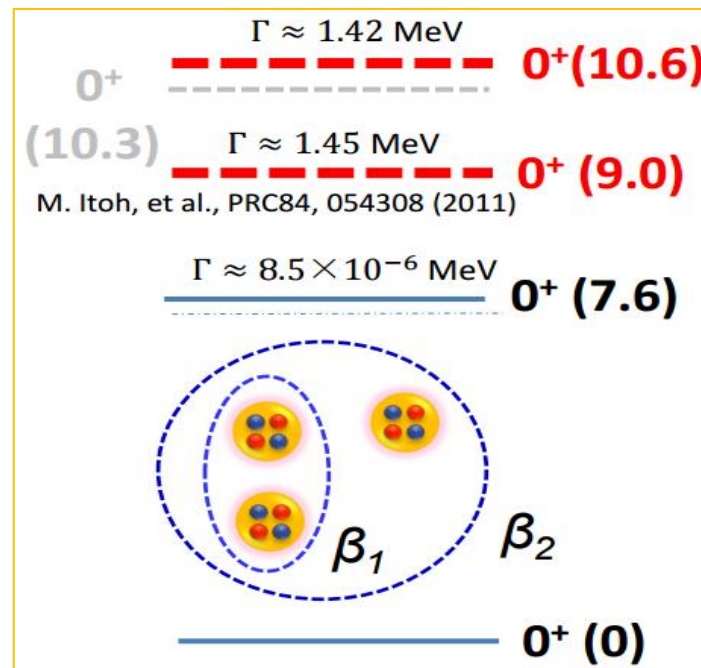
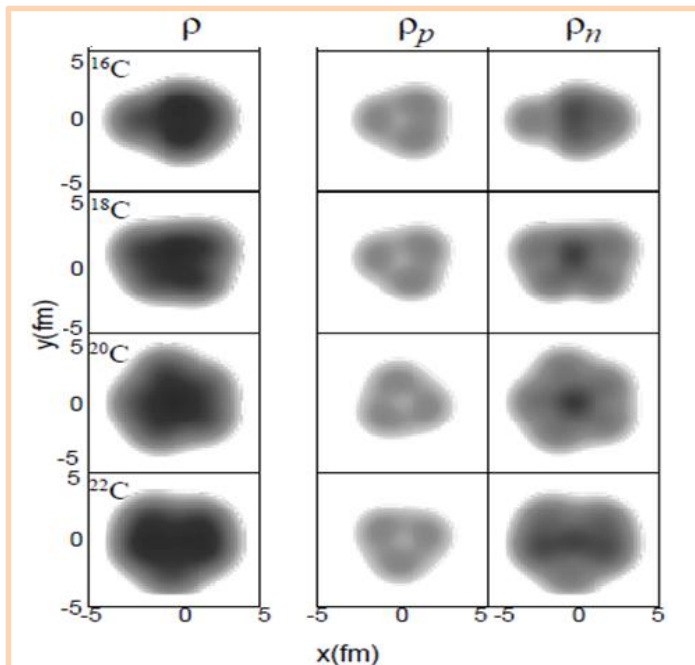
Research plan at RIKEN

Research plan: α -clustering in C isotopes

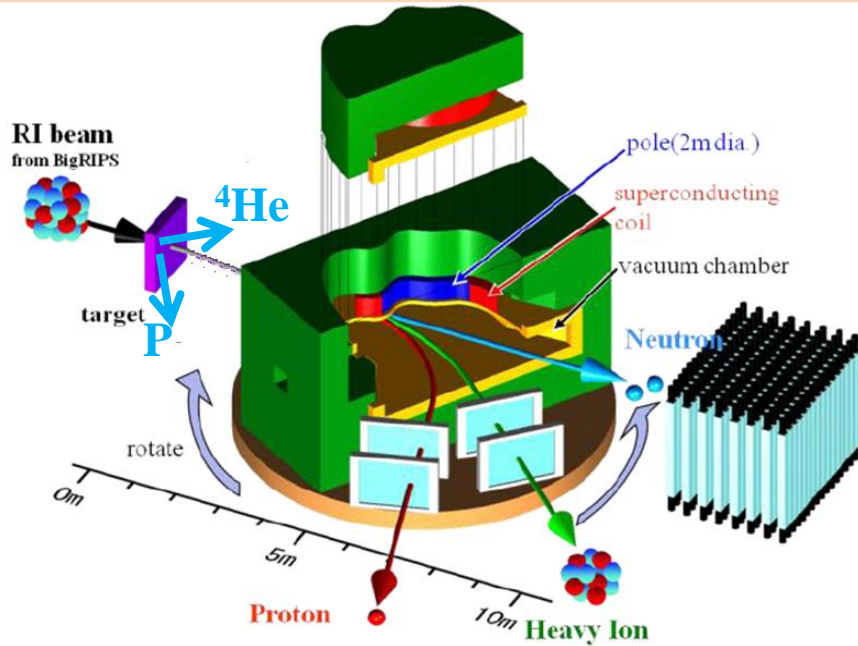
- AMD calculations on Carbon isotopes.
- Intensive studies on the Hoyle state
- α -condensation in highly excited states
- Linear Chain states? Bended? Triangle?



PTPS142(01) 205, PRL 81(98)5291, PRC 86(12)034320, PRL110(13)152502, PRL87(01)192501, PRC 67(03) 051306, PRC69(04)024309, PRC 92(15) 021302(R) , PRC64(01)014301



Measurements with SAMURAI at RIBF



- Solid hydrogen target
- **Charged residuals:** SAMURAI
- **Neutrons:** NEBULA (+NeuLAND)
- **Cluster fragments:** DSSD-CsI(Tl)
- **Scattered protons:** ESPRI-RPS

Method: Cluster Quasi-Free Scattering

- High-quality intense beams for neutron-rich isotopes at ~150 A MeV.
- Extraction of the α cluster spectroscopic factors from DWIA analysis

$$\frac{d^3\sigma}{d\Omega_p d\Omega_\alpha dE_p} = \underbrace{S_\alpha}_{\text{Matrix element (from DWIA calculations)}} F_k \sum_\lambda |T^{L,\lambda}|^2 \underbrace{\frac{d^3\sigma}{d\Omega_{p-\alpha}}}_{\text{Free p-}\alpha \text{ elastic cross section}}$$